

# SOCCER WEEK

20th NOVEMBER 1974

3 HIGH STREET, PRAHRAN.

EDITORIAL: 51-9870

ADVERTISING: 51-9878

FOLIO NO.23

PRICE 20c (SYDNEY 30c)

## FIRST WITH THE POOLS!

FOR MATCHES PLAYED

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X Q.P.R.	WEST HAM	9
SHEFF. UTD.	TOTTENHAM	10
X STOKE	LEICESTER	11
X BRISTOL R.	BOLTON	12
X FULHAM	BLACKPOOL	13
X HULL	BRISTOL C.	14
X MAN. UTD.	SUNDERLAND	15
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# SOCCER WEEK 2 SOCCER POOLS TIPS

## SOCCER POOLS

by Jock Stephen

...MY 'Star Selections' from London came up with four draws out of the ten selections given in last week's SOCCER WEEK, on last Saturday's fixtures. This not only proves that we are FIRST with the POOLS, but we also give you the final word as well.

Now to the coupon for November 30. I will ignore the Fourth Division on this date, as I cannot see any value in chasing after draws in the lower Division. You will do much better by looking at English Second and Scottish Second Divisions for the basis of your Systems from One to Six.

So my NAP HAND is: as the last four games have proven.

Q.P.R. v West Ham, Bristol Rovers v Bolton, Hull City v Bristol City, Crystal Palace v Charlton and Albion Rovers v St. Mirren. However the complete list of chances can be found on page one, from which to base your System, giving of course, regard to your personal choice. I hope my forecast for the 16th of six score draws and one no-score draw, brought you closer to a dividend. The Star Selections from London for the 23rd November are: Burnley v Newcastle United, Coventry v Arsenal, Wolves v Stoke, Hull City v Manchester United, Oxford United v Bristol Rovers, Sheffield Wednesday v Fulham, Barnsley v Halifax, Exeter v Newport, Grimsby v Huddersfield, and Swindon v Reading. I would like to draw attention to the gentleman from Melody Street in Coogee, that I find it impossible to reply by mail unless stamps are applied to the Addressed Envelope. Kindly note that ALL stamped addressed envelopes will be answered. All enquiries must be addressed to J. Stephen, Box 134 P.O. Kew, 3101. I shall be pleased to assist you with your Pools problems and queries.

One of the problems met by Australian Soccer Pools may not seem important to some, but the occasional coupon which is written in RED or GREEN ball point is extremely difficult to process through the visual checking machines, and necessitates individual attention. So, to help the accuracy in checking, kindly complete coupon in BLACK or DARK BLUE.

The First Division English League is approaching boiling point. With ten clubs at the top being separated by only two points, and Ipswich Town, Liverpool, Manchester City and Everton all equal on 22 points, it would be a bookmakers dream to pick the champions over the next four weeks. Arsenal have started their run to no mean order, and even they are in 18th position, but only 8 points from the leaders. Arsenals run over the last four games has brought them 7 valuable points, ever since Terry Mancini changed his colours from white to red. His influence on the flagging defence of Arsenal has been electric,



telling you about my selections. These are the matches, which on form should all draw, but as you know surprises do happen, and it pays to pick two-thirds of your form matches and then include some games which do not appear so close. Thus when these turn up you have yourself a larger dividend than expected. Lots of luck.

There was a very foolish fellow, living in the next street to me, who kept on saying each time we met. "I'll bet you a pot, that the soccer pools will be out of business by Xmas." So, I do know where I will get my Xmas drink, because each week the number of coupons is increasing and people are taking notice of the \$100,000 first prize jackpot. There is nothing like an incentive to create the extra interest, and what couldn't we do with \$100,000. Of course, the greater number of clients entering the pools are Australians.

### AROUND EUROPE

Bayern Munich are in the news again, as always. It appears that their international engagements merit first consideration, for their Bundesliga games are not going too well for them. The latest debacle was a 5-2 defeat by Kaiserslautern. This defeat has set them down in tenth place in the League, their worst position in twelve years.

Over to Italy for a juicy piece of Neapolitan gossip. The spectators at Naples were not very happy over the result Napoli 1 Lazio 1, so they hung around to farewell the referee in the good old-fashioned way. Referee Signor Michelotti was shepherded in to an ambulance, and was leaving the precincts when spectators started rocking the vehicle. The car returned to the clubrooms and delayed Signor Michelotti's departure for at least another two hours.

Piet Keizer of Ajax Amsterdam, has hung up his boots after a playing career with that club lasting 19 years. He commenced with Ajax when he was 12, and is now 31. He considered that his dropping to a place in the Second team was too much. Perhaps he also realises that the young ones were getting away from him. In consideration of his long service to Ajax, he will receive a normal players salary for the rest of the season.

Dynamo Kiev are tops in the major Russian League with 40 points from 28 matches played.

F.I.F.A. are trying lots of experiments in various ways to modernise the game for the spectator. Their latest test will be at Monte Carlo, where the Under-18 European Nations competition will be held this week. As a variation to the off-side rule, there will be NO off-side from free kicks either direct or indirect, so one can expect more crowding in the goal area than customary. Another innovation will be the ice hockey idea of the sin bin, in which players who come under the referees displeasure will be sent off for ten minutes.

Don Revie has recalled former England defender Terry Cooper of Leeds, to his squad. Norm Hunter is out through injury, Colin Todd, the Derby defender is out with groin trouble and Trevor Francis the Birmingham striker is out with ligament trouble. Cooper, who broke a leg four years ago, last played for England in December 1971.

Billy Bremner will be back in the Scotland team against Spain at Hampden Park, but Danny McGrain of Celtic and John Blackley of Hibs are out through injury.

George Connelly of Celtic who quit two months ago after finding it difficult to hold a regular place in the first team, has resumed training at Parkhead. At 26 years of age, he was capped twice for Scotland. It could take him another two months to get back to form, and then have to wait his chance to break back in the senior side.

Jackie Charlton was called to Buckingham Palace last week to receive the O.B.E. from the Queen, in recognition of his services to Soccer both past and present. As most followers of Soccer know, Jackie is carrying on the Charlton tradition by coaching the successful Middlesborough side, who are in the top eight of the English First Division at present.

The draw for the F.A. League Cup quarter-final is: Middlesborough v Manchester United, Newcastle United v Chester, Sheffield United v Norwich City v Ipswich Town and Colchester or Southampton v Hartlepool or Aston Villa. The giant-killers Chester who tossed Leeds United in the previous round, are not taking any chances and their manager says "Let the heads fall where they may, and Chester will be in there at the finish."

Barcelona could end up as the club with the most Internationals on their playing strength. They have just signed on the

strongest defender in South America. Mario Marinho, the famous member of Brazil's World Cup squad will join Barcelona within the next ten days.

It seems as if Spain is one of the few countries in Europe, which does not limit the number of foreign players. Cruyff and Neeskens from Holland are also with "The Nuts".

Don Revie went to Berne to have a pre-view of the Portuguese team for the coming game with England. What he saw was a demoralised team being easily beaten by Switzerland by 3 goals to nil. Portugal have now called on Eusebio to return to the national squad for the England game, in an effort to avert certain defeat.

### THE EQUALISER

The setting: Wembley Stadium. The occasion: The World Cup Final between England and West Germany. The date was Saturday, July 30th, 1966. The time: A little after 4.40 p.m. with only 15 seconds to go, Swiss Referee Dienst, awarded a free kick against Jackie Charlton. It was a controversial decision... It looked as if Siegfried Held had 'made a back' for Charlton as he goes up to head the ball. But referee Dienst thinks differently.

As Lothar Emmerich prepares to take the kick, Nobby Stiles feverishly organises England's defensive wall. In tension well-nigh unbearable Emmerich slams the ball forward.

It disappears into a melee of legs and bodies before Held gets possession and cracks the ball into the packed English goal-mouth. It hits left back Karl Schellinger. There is a confused blur of white German shirts and then, amid a gasp of horror from every watching Englishman, the ball spins across to the unmarked German Wolfgang Weber who sweeps it into the net. And this is it... the moment when every German in front of England's goal, Haller on the left, Schellinger, Overath and Seeler on the right, turn referee wards to get his nod and a toot from his whistle.

Only Bobby Moore, in the unaccustomed red shirt raises his hand appealing for a foul. But that 'nick of time' equaliser — the goal that almost stopped 40 million hearts, is allowed to stand. As the whole country watched the stupendous struggle on television West Germany were level at 2 all. They had forced extra time...

Quite a lot of Pools Buffs have been unaware that they have won a dividend, either through not checking their coupon thoroughly, or incorrectly. But they need not worry. The checking of every coupon can safely be left in the hands of the computer, combined with a final visual check. I can speak from

personal experience, as I looked at my coupon very quickly and thought I had not won anything.

However, two weeks later I was pleasantly surprised to receive a cheque in the mail.

## IPSWICH TAKE OVER

LONDON: A hat-trick by David Johnson sent Ipswich to the top of the English Soccer League with a crushing 4-0 win over Coventry City on Saturday.

Ipswich jumped four places in the table to grab the top spot on goal average while erstwhile leaders Manchester City were hammered 4-0 at Birmingham.

Brian Talbot started an incident-packed match by missing a first-half penalty for Ipswich. But after seeing his name follow that of Coventry's Larry Lloyd into the referee's book the Ipswich forward boosted the goal tally while Johnson was enjoying his purple patch in the second half.

Ipswich ended the day with a fractional advantage on goal average over Manchester City, Liverpool and Everton with all four clubs on 22 points.

Liverpool and Everton missed a chance to take a clear lead in the first-division table when they battled to a goalless draw in the 11th clash between the two Merseyside clubs.

The Everton-Liverpool clash at Goodison Park attracted a crowd of 56,797 — the biggest attendance at any league match this season.

But though the

scoresheet remained blank at Everton there were goals galore elsewhere in the first division, with the day's most entertaining match undoubtedly the 2-2 draw between defending champions Leeds United and Middlesbrough.

Leeds, the European Cup quarter-finalists who were knocked out of the English league cup by fourth-division Chester in midweek, seemed to have hit match sewn up with two goals in four minutes from striker Duncan McKenzie.

But Middlesbrough, with manager Jack Charlton making his first official visit to Leeds since he left the club last year, battled back to take a point with goals by Stuart Boam and Malcolm Smith in one of the most skilful games of the season.

Also among the goals were West Ham, whose 5-2 triumph over Wolverhampton Wanderers brought their sequence to four wins in five games, and Newcastle United who hammered lacklustre Chelsea 5-0.

## RESULTS FROM LAST WEEKS GAMES

Check pge.3 for up-to-date form

### ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Arsenal 3, Derby County 1; Birmingham City 4, Manchester City 0; Everton 0, Liverpool 0; Ipswich Town 4, Coventry City 0; Leeds United 2, Middlesbrough 2; Leicester City 1, Tottenham Hotspur 2; Newcastle United 5, Chelsea 0; Queens Park Rangers 2, Carlisle United 1; Sheffield United 2, Burnley 2; Stoke City 4, Luton Town 2; West Ham United 5, Wolverhampton Wanderers 2.

### ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackpool 0, Oxford United 0; Bolton Wanderers 3, Southampton 2; Bristol Rovers 0, Orient 0; Cardiff City 2, Nottingham Forest 1; Fulham 1, Sunderland 3; Manchester United 2, Aston Villa 1; Notts County 3, Sheffield Athletic 2, Norwich City 2; Portsmouth 1, Hull City 1; West Bromwich Albion 1, Bristol City 0; York City 2, Millwall 1.

### ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Blackburn 2, Aldershot 0; Bournemouth 2, Bury 1; Charlton 4, Walsall 2; Chesterfield 2, Peterborough 0; Crystal Palace 3, Plymouth 3; Halifax 2, Huddersfield 1; Hereford 2, Brighton 0;

Southend 1, Wrexham 1; Swindon 1, Gillingham 0; Watford 3, Port Vale 2.

### ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR

Barnsley 0, Lincoln City 2; Cambridge United 1, Newport County 1; Chester 3, Swansea City 0; Hartlepool 3, Brentford 2; Mansfield Town 5, Doncaster Rovers 2; Reading 1, Bradford City 1; Rotherham United 1, Exeter City 1; Scunthorpe United 2, Rochdale 2; Shrewsbury Town 2, Workington 0.

### SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE,

Aberdeen 3, Morton 3; Arbroath 3, Hearts 1; Celtic 6, Airdrieonians 0; Dumbarton 1, Ayr United 2; Dundee 4, St. Johnstone 0; Hibernian 1, Clyde 0; Kilmarnock 2, Dunfermline Athletic 4; Motherwell 0, Rangers 5; Patrick Thistle 0, Dundee United 5.

### SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Albion Rovers 1, Clydebank 3; Alloa 0, Falkirk 1; Cowdenbeath 0, Queen of the South 2; East Fife 1, Queens Park 0; East Stirling 1, Brechin City 2; Meadowbank 0, Hamilton Academicals 4; Montrose 2, Berwick Rangers 0; St Mirren 0, Raith Rovers 1; Stenhousemuir 2, Stirling Albion 1; Stranraer 0, Forfar Athletic 0.



Check your Pools Form  
here with Soccer Week,  
first with the Pools!

## ENGLISH LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE							
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Ipswich Town	18	10	2	6	25	12	22
Liverpool	17	10	2	5	23	12	22
Everton	18	5	12	1	23	18	22
Manchester City	18	9	4	5	21	22	22
Sheffield United	18	8	5	5	27	29	21
Stoke City	17	7	6	4	29	23	20
West Ham United	18	8	4	6	34	27	20
Newcastle United	17	7	6	4	25	20	20
Middlesbrough	17	7	6	4	24	21	20
Derby County	18	7	6	5	30	27	20
Birmingham City	18	8	3	7	30	25	19
Burnley	18	7	4	7	28	29	18
Wolverhampton Wanderers	18	5	7	6	20	23	17
Leicester City	16	5	5	6	19	20	15
Queens Park Rangers	17	5	5	7	19	23	15
Coventry City	18	4	7	7	24	36	15
Leeds United	17	5	4	8	21	20	14
Arsenal	17	5	4	8	21	22	14
Tottenham Hotspur	17	5	4	8	22	25	14
Chelsea	18	3	8	7	19	33	14
Carlisle United	18	5	3	10	15	19	13
Luton Town	18	1	7	10	15	28	9

DIVISION TWO							
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Manchester United	13	3	2	31	9	29	29
Sunderland	17	9	5	3	27	12	23
Norwich City	17	8	7	2	24	13	23
Bristol City	17	7	6	4	16	10	20
Aston Villa	17	7	5	5	26	15	19
West Bromwich Albion	18	6	7	5	21	15	19
Bolton Wanderers	17	7	5	5	21	17	19
Hull City	18	6	7	5	22	32	19
Notts County	18	5	8	5	23	23	18
Bristol Rovers	18	6	6	6	16	20	18
Oxford United	18	7	4	7	16	27	18
Blackpool	18	5	7	6	17	15	17
York City	18	6	5	7	23	24	17
Nottingham Forest	18	7	3	8	20	25	17
Orient	17	4	8	5	13	19	16
Fulham	17	5	5	7	21	17	15
Oldham	17	5	5	7	18	21	15
Southampton	17	5	4	8	22	26	14
Millwall	18	4	5	9	18	26	13
Cardiff City	17	5	3	9	18	27	13
Sheffield Wednesday	18	3	6	9	19	28	12
Portsmouth	18	2	8	8	13	24	12

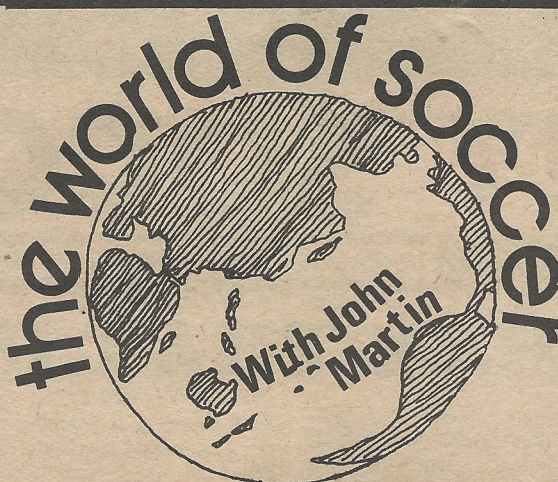
DIVISION THREE							
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Blackburn	18	11	4	3	25	14	26
Swindon	20	9	7	4	30	28	25
Colchester	20	8	7	5	33	22	23
Charlton	19	10	3	6	34	29	23
Peterborough	19	9	5	5	20	21	23
Crystal Palace	19	9	4	6	28	26	22
Hereford	20	8	5	7	27	21	21
Southend	20	8	5	7	25	20	21
Preston	20	9	3	8	30	27	21
Plymouth	19	9	3	7	27	25	21
Watford	20	6	9	5	28	31	21
Wrexham	18	7	6	5	30	23	20
Walsall	19	7	6	6	31	24	20
Port Vale	19	6	8	5	28	27	20
Bury	20	6	5	9	21	22	17
Chesterfield	19	6	4	9	29	32	16
Grimsby	19	7	2	10	27	36	16
Halifax	19	4	8	7	22	30	16
Huddersfield	17	6	3	8	18	23	15
Bournemouth	17	6	2	9	16	18	14
Gillingham	19	4	6	9	22	28	14
Brighton	19	5	4	10	19	33	14
Tranmere	18	5	3	10	22	24	13
Aldershot	19	5	4	10	20	28	13

DIVISION FOUR							
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Mansfield Town	20	14	4	2	43	19	32
Shrewsbury Town	20	13	4	3	37	17	30
Rotherham United	19	10	6	3	36	17	26
Lincoln City	18	10	5	3	41	20	25
Chester	20	10	3	7	28	16	23
Northampton Town	19	9	4	6	38	25	22
Reading	18	9	3	6	30	21	21
Newport County	18	9	3	6	29	26	21
Bradford City	20	9	3	8	21	19	21
Southport	19	7	7	5	23	21	21
Exeter City	19	8	4	7	20	23	20
Torquay United	20	6	7	7	20	26	19
Hartlepool	17	7	4	6	24	24	18
Crewe Alexandra	20	6	6	8	15	18	18
Barnsley	20	6	5	9	21	23	17
Cambridge United	20	5	7	8	24	27	17
Rochdale	19	5	7	7	24	34	17
Darlington	21	6	4	11	30	37	16
Stockport County	19	6	4	9	25	36	16
Brentford	19	5	5	9	18	24	15
Swansea City	21	6	3	12	23	41	15
Doncaster Rovers	20	4	5	11	24	40	13
Scunthorpe United	19	2	8	9	17	33	12
Workington	19	4	1	14	12	36	9

## SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE							
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Rangers	12	10	2	0	35	10	22
Celtic	12	10	1	1	35	10	21
Hibernian	12	7	3	2	27	14	17
Dundee United	12	6	4	2	27	11	16
Aberdeen	12	7	2	3	26	14	16
Dundee	12	5	2	5	15	11	12
Dunfermline Athletic	12	4	4	4	20	23	12
St. Johnstone	12	4	3	5	14	18	11
Ayr United	12	4	3	5	18	25	11
Kilmarnock	12	3	5	4	16	26	11
Dumbarton	12	3	3	6	20	20	9
Arbroath	12	4	1	7	12	20	9
Airdrieonians	12	4	1	7	11	20	9
Morton	12	3	3	6	14	25	9
Motherwell	12	3	2	7	15	25	8
Partick Thistle	12	3	2	7	19	30	8
Hearts	12	2	4	6	16	29	8
Clyde	12	2	3	7	12	21	7

DIVISION TWO							
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
East Fife	15	11	3	1	26	8	25
Queen of the South	16	11	2	3	35	8	24
Montrose	16	10	2	4	28	17	22
East Stirling	16	9	3	4	32	24	21
Stenhousemuir	16	6	7	3	23	18	19
Stirling Albion	15	8	2	5	28	23	18
Hamilton Academicals	13	7	3	3	20	11	17
Stranraer	16	5	7	4	17	19	17
Falkirk	13	8	0	5	27	14	16
Alloa	16	5	6	5	23	16	16
Berwick Rangers	15	8	0	7	22	20	16
St. Mirren	15	6	3	6	28	26	15
Albion Rovers	15	5	3	7	29	28	13
Raith Rovers	14	4	4	6	13	16	12
Clydebank	16	3	6	7	16	24	12
Queens Park	15	3	4	8	12	22	10
Brechin City	16	4	2	10	23	35	10
Cowdenbeath	15	2	6	7	15	29	10
Forfar Athletic	15	1	3	11	16	42	5
Meadowbank Thistle	14	2	0	12	7	40	4



A MAJOR row is brewing between leading continental clubs and UEFA.

It concerns the new ruling that players must not be treated for injuries on the field.

This means that it is left to the referee's discretion whether a trainer or a doctor is allowed on the pitch to look at an injured player.

Referees are taking the instructions too literally and have left badly-injured players unattended.

The manager of Ferencvaros said: "These regulations are unfair and an insult to the players."

"They are based on the assumption that most footballers are fakers, who pretend to be hurt in order to obtain some obscure advantage."

"In fact, hundreds of honest sportsmen are victimised for the sins of a few merchants."

Zoltan Botar, doctor of the Hungarian national team, says: "How can a referee who might be a clerk or a schoolmaster, evaluate the extent of an injury?"

"Nobody likes stoppages during an exciting match, but the player's health must be the most important consideration."

"These regulations have turned football pitches into Roman arenas, where the stricken gladiators are ignored, because the show must go on."

The situation reached boiling point in Rotterdam during the Feyenoord v Barcelona European Cup clash, where Barcelona forward Asensi was badly injured.

World Cup referee Rudi Gloeckner (East Germany) refused to allow the trainer to come on for four minutes.

Even when the ball went out for a corner to Feyenoord, he demanded that play go on.

Subsequently, Asensi was helped off the pitch and taken to hospital, where he was detained with three broken ribs.

Augustine Montal, the Barcelona president, has lodged a strong protest against Gloeckner and has also made an official complaint.

"The match ended 0-0 so we cannot be accused of sour grapes," says Montal.

"But the referee's actions were inhuman, incomprehensible and unforgivable. Asensi was obviously in great pain, and later had to be carried into the dressing room in an unconscious state."

FANS GO SOUR ON SWEDES THE SKELLEFEA v Dagerfors second division match has established a new sorry attendance

Argentinians for the World Club Championship.

Independiente, current holders of the world club title — they beat Juventus 1-0 last season — are now hoping to persuade Europeans Cup runners-up, Atletico Madrid, to play them for this once-coveted trophy.

### NEW CHAMPIONS

IN DENMARK, KB Copenhagen are the new champions.

Last year's title holders, Hvidovra, are relegated!

### LOOKING AHEAD

AUSTRALIA is beginning to think about the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. This week quietly-spoken Englishman Eric Worthington, who is based in Sydney, will start the long road to a final place in the Cup.

The national director of coaching has written to all state coaches asking them to look out for any young talent.

Eric, it is understood, will be preparing a young team to represent Australia against LKS of Poland, next January. But the talk is that because of the travel involved the "Australian" team will again be a "NSW" side.

Eric has the job in front of him to follow in Rale Rasic's shoes. I only hope he receives the co-operation from all concerned and receives a better go than Rasic had.

### WORLD GAMES

INTERNATIONAL results of games played last month: Egypt 5, Jordan 0; Tunisia 1, Algeria 0; Uganda 2, Somalia 0; Egypt 2, Lebanon 0; Syria 3, Tunisia 1; Morocco 2, Sudan 0; Denmark 2, Iceland 1; German DR 2,

Canada 0; Finland 1, Sweden 2; Belgium 2, France 1; German DR 1, Iceland 1; CSSR 4, Sweden 0; Denmark 0, Rumania 0.

### FOREIGNERS IN GREECE

AT PRESENT 20 foreigners are playing with Greek clubs. Fourteen come from South America alone.

As far as coaches are concerned, Yugoslavia heads the list with six, followed by Great Britain with three. Six clubs have Greek coaches.

### PUBLICITY ON PLAYERS' CLOTHING

PUBLICITY continues to be forbidden on players' shorts in the Netherlands.

This was decided by the remunerated football section of the Dutch Association during a long meeting, following an attempts made by a Rotterdam club to decorate its players' shorts with a publicity slogan.

### 57,000 TEAMS

MORE THAN 57,000 youth and schoolboy teams play week after week under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of the Federal Republic of Germany (DFB).

In this connection, next year, the DFB Youth Committee will hold a model seminar in Wangen in the hope of achieving the most uniform training possible.

A handbook for youth leaders, which will appear shortly has the same aim.

### WEST GERMAN FIRST DIVISION FOOTBALL RESULTS

Eintracht Brunswick 1, Schalke 04 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 5, VFB Stut-

Continued P. 6

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# SYDNEY SOCCER SCENE

BY JOE SMITH AND JOHN O'BRIEN

## SUSPEND THEM THAT IS THE QUESTION

**ANY player collecting four official cautions from referees in one season must, surely, be a guilty man. As such, he should be suspended.**

That was the logical thinking behind Apia Leichhardt's attempt to get the NSW Federation to impose an automatic one-week ban on players who were given four bookings.

Surprisingly, this proposition did not receive sufficient support at the AGM to make it law.

Now, Federation president Peter McCann has stated the motion certainly is going to be brought up once again... with maximum support from his executive committee. It will be debated, and let us hope, accepted at a special meeting of clubs on December 9.

I suggested to Mr McCann that suspensions should be introduced after three, rather than four, bookings. He agreed this was a good idea but qualified his support when he said: "There is a slight risk of a referee making a set against a certain player. Personal animosity could make such a player more vulnerable to cautions than other players."

"In a country like England where one referee may control one team's games only two or three times a year there is no problem. But in Sydney, a ref could handle one team every few weeks. Perhaps it is better to go for a suspension after four cautions which is more lenient than three."

"But one thing is certain. A rule on these lines is absolutely essential. I think you'll find it will be accepted by the necessary two-thirds majority at our Federation meeting on December 9."

"It is, after all, only embracing a ruling which is in operation almost everywhere in the Soccer world — expect NSW."

xxx

Fears that touring Polish team LKS Lodz could attract only poor attendances in Australia next year are groundless.

... according to one prominent former Sydney player Kaz Kulak.

Kulak reckons LKS Lodz will give Australia a box office bonanza.

When he asked me to forecast the crowd for the big game against the Poles in Sydney in February, I told him: "A maximum 10,000 spectators."

Kulak commented: "You're well short of the mark. I'll be disappointed if LKS Lodz don't pull in 30,000."

Allowing for bias — Kulak hailed originally from Poland — I still couldn't understand that 30,000 prediction. But Kulak insisted: "Polish people are very loyal to

their homeland and their countrymen. Every Pole in Sydney will watch that tour match — if only in the hope that they'll be able to talk to the players or shake them by the hand."

Incidentally, Greg Lato, top goalscorer in the 1974 World Cup in West Germany, is scheduled to travel with LKS Lodz to Australia.

Although Lato doesn't play with LKS, it is not uncommon for touring Polish sides to add guest stars for tours to ensure under-strength teams are never sent abroad.

Lato, together with World Cup hero goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski, will be big attractions when the Polish club side appears at the Sydney Sports Ground.

xxx

Ray Baartz, the man who was so badly missed by Australia's World Cup team in Hamburg and Berlin this year, is most unlikely to change his mind about retiring from Soccer.

Baartz, temporarily paralysed after getting a karate chop in the Sydney Cricket Ground game against Uruguay, has not played since.

Although Ray was fit enough to go to Germany as a World Cup observer, he is obviously apprehensive about risking further injury in serious matches.

Baartz recently went into business in his native Newcastle in Northern

By JOHN O'BRIEN

NSW where he is partner in a successful sports shop.

Asked last week if there was any hope of his making a comeback as a player, Baartz said: "No. I was warned by doctors of serious consequences if I was injured again so I think the wise move would be to stay retired."

xxx

When Cardiff City toured Australia in 1968, their manager Jimmy Scouler revealed that one of his players, centre-forward John Toshack, had refused a transfer to Fulham even though Cardiff badly wanted that \$100,000 fee Fulham were prepared to pay.

Said Scouler: "That

money represents a more than generous assessment of Toshack's worth. I'm disappointed the player wasn't transferred."

Our conversation took place in the Park Royal Motel in Melbourne and I was reminded of it this week because John Toshack is again in the news.

Toshack, now with Liverpool, seems certain to be transferred soon.

He joined Liverpool from Cardiff in 1970 when Cardiff received double the fee they might have picked up from Fulham.

Since then, Toshack has scored many important goals for Liverpool and also for the Welsh international team. But

after playing a prominent part in Liverpool's English F.A. Cup final victory last May, he was relegated to the reserves. Ray Kennedy, formerly with Arsenal, has taken over Toshack's striking role at Liverpool.

Last week Toshack was one of the heroes of Wales' 2-0 win against Hungary but he still seems very much on the outer with his club.

Toshack complained that he has not had a first team game with Liverpool for the past nine weeks. Naturally, he is concerned about his future.

One thing is certain, though. If Liverpool do decide to sell the big Welshman, there will be plenty of bidders. At least three English first division clubs have stated they want him.

When he moves, the transfer fee will be far greater than the \$100,000 involved when John Toshack refused to leave Cardiff City six years ago.

xxx

Apia Leichhardt, the Sydney team with strong Italian affiliations, haven't had a top Italian player in their team for several years.

Fil Bottalico, now coaching, and John Giacometti, who was transferred to Marconi Fairfield, were the last prominent Italians to shine with Apia.

Now the club aims to sign one or two Italians for the 1975 season in the hope of boosting crowd figures. But they'll be hoping to get them from Britain — not from Italy. There are several players of Italian ancestry playing in the U.K. most of them in Scotland. Apia are checking on these players to see if they would be interested in moving to Sydney.

With little money in Scottish Soccer these days, Apia might be lucky.

xxx

Auburn, Granville and South Sydney Croatia are three clubs interested in signing David Jack, the Western Suburbs forward who has asked for a transfer.

It now seems they could all miss the boat. Following an interview with Wests' coach Les Scheinflug, who tried to persuade Jack to remain with Wests, the player has also been interviewed by members of the Western Suburbs Board

This year, the team Mike Johnson coached, St George Budapest, won the NSW grand final... but that success arrived after Johnson had left Saints. And all the compliments were paid to his successor, Johnny Warren.

of Directors.

The directors, Albie De Paoli and Ross Vincent, told Jack he would be difficult to replace and suggested he would be wise to change his mind about a transfer.

Jack feels he has spent far too long in reserve team Soccer and his natural desire to play first grade was the only reason for his transfer request.

He has promised to think seriously about withdrawing the transfer request.

xxx

Hakoah Eastern Suburbs' coach Dave Maclaren, who has been in Europe since the end of the Sydney season, is rumoured to have signed four U.K. players for Hakoah. One of the new men is a Welsh international.

If, in fact, Maclaren has fixed up four players, it will mean Hakoah will have to go easy on more signings.

Next month, the NSW Federation will almost certainly bring in a new rule restricting imports to a maximum of four in any one year. And there will also be a maximum number of imports permitted in any match.

This means that if Hakoah's four U.K. recruits fail to make the grade in Sydney, the club will not be permitted to summon further reinforcements from overseas.

xxx

Frank Brady could be on the move from South Sydney Croatia.

The talented Irish centre-half claims he has not been offered re-signing terms by South Sydney since his contract expired even though NSW Federation rules state players should be told of new offers before October 15.

The name Brady is beginning to hit the headlines in England.

Frank Brady's 18-year-old kid brother Liam has had a succession of outstanding matches with Arsenal in the first division. Liam is tipped to win the award as England's "Young Footballer of the Year".

In a recent article, Arsenal's England star Alan Ball said Liam Brady was the finest 18-year-old footballer in the country.

Naturally, big brother Frank is delighted at Liam's success.

## SAVE NEWTOWN

By JOE SMITH

ARRANGEMENTS are now being made for a triple pay-off to fill one coveted place in the 1975 Sydney second division competition.

When Newtown were refused admission to second division after failing to satisfy the Federation's screening committee, it was decided that three teams would meet in a round robin to fill the vacancy.

Teams are North Sydney Inter (relegated from Second division this year) and Arncliffe Scots and Kuringai, who were level runners-up to promoted Northern Districts in third division. The play-offs are tentatively scheduled for early next year during the pre-season Ampol Cup series.

Incidentally, top coach Mike Johnson has been asked to handle Kuringai during this round robin and seems sure to accept.

One problem has arisen, however.

A last ditch attempt is being made to save "outed" Newtown. Marrickville businessman George Kefalas wants Newtown's case to be reopened — when Federation clubs meet in Sydney on December 9 — and if the club is reprieved, North Sydney Inter, Arncliffe Scots and Kuringai can forget all about their play-off tournament.



MIKE JOHNSON

division team.

So when Sutherland's treasurer starts wearing a worried look, the obvious remedy is to go out and sell a player or two!

These transfer deals are particularly interesting to Mike Johnson, the man who coached Sutherland when they won promotion from second to first division.

Johnson says: "I do not claim to have 'made' players like Roche, Perry, Bennett and the rest but I'm justified in saying I helped the boys develop. Without proper coaching, much local talent is often wasted. With the right sort of coaching, a useful boy

can be improved out of sight."

"Of the six players sold by Sutherland for \$25,000, only one — goalkeeper Maher — cost a fee. I paid Granville \$4,000 for him and was criticised for investing so much in a young, immature, goalie. But Sutherland have had several great seasons out of Maher and have now sold him at a good profit."

Johnson doesn't seem to be able to take a trick these days. He is interested in the coaching positions at Safeway United, Granville and Marconi Fairfield, but admits he has not had firm offers from any of these clubs.

## TRANSFER OF TWO PLAYERS

By JOHN O'BRIEN

SUTHERLAND Shire agreed to transfer two outstanding young Australian players last week for a combined figure of \$11,000. The players are World Cup goalkeeper Alan Maher, who will join Marconi Fairfield, and State centre-half Col Bennett, who has signed for Apia Leichhardt.

The sale of this pair brings Sutherland's outgoing transfer dealings to a profitable \$25,000 for six local players.



ALAN MAHER

Winger Allan Griffiths (\$4,000) and full-back John Roche (\$2,500) were first to leave, both joining Marconi Fairfield. Then goalkeeper John Dyson moved to St George Budapest for \$2,000 and full-back Steve Perry joined Western Suburbs for \$5,000. Now Maher and Bennett have joined the trek away from the Shire.

Although Sutherland fans may regret the loss of such capable footballers, they have to agree that these deals enabled their club to keep its head above water despite ever-increasing costs of semi-professional Soccer in the NSW Federation.

Unlike more affluent clubs, Sutherland get only minimal benefits from the licensed club which backs Soccer in the area. The social club is not big. Its profits are inevitably restricted by its size. And those profits are needed for other things besides the Sutherland first

SOCCER WEEK-  
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Pools Yet?



# HOW MUCH FROM WORLD CUP PROFITS

DESPITE stories to the contrary, Australia has still not received its cut from the 1974 World Cup profits. In fact, the Australian Soccer Federation hasn't even been told how much it is going to get.

In Sydney last week, there was a scare story that some World Cup players would stage a strike if they didn't get quick settlement of money due from the Cup. It was erroneously stated that the ASF already had banked a big cheque from West German organisers of the Cup.

When I checked with ASF general secretary Brian Le Fevre, he said: "I am very annoyed about these tales. I can assure you Australia has not had its share of World Cup profits yet."

"The ASF did get a small advance of about \$20,000 because, like many other Australian organisations in these difficult times, we were short of liquidity and were asked to reduce a bank overdraft."

"It appears the World Cup final profits were assessed last week at a meeting on Rome, but it will be a few weeks yet before we can be certain of Australia's share. Possibly, too, our payment from FIFA will be a second instalment with

full settlement being delayed even longer. Organisers of the World Cup are conservative and will delay the full pay-out until they are certain all charges have been met."

The Australian Soccer Federation is most anxious to have a definite figure to place before delegates at its annual meeting in three weeks time. But secretary Le Fevre fears he may not be able to provide that figure.

When the ASF first started working out Australia's yield from the 1974 World Cup, it was forecast we could expect a maximum of about \$140,000. Judging by the excellent sale of tickets for Cup matches in West Germany, Australia's cut

will probably be slightly better than that.

But each competing nation gets a different amount. The percentages are based on how far a team goes in the tournament and also what sort of attendances it pulls in. On both counts, Australia would be near the bottom of the list. There was a big crowd for Australia's match against West Germany in Hamburg but other games against East Germany and Chile produced poor gate receipts.

By JOE SMITH

The delay in getting World Cup cash to Australia is causing some Sydney players considerable anxiety.

Some have borrowed in anticipation of the windfall. They borrowed from their clubs. Now those clubs are pressuring the ASF because they want their money from the players!

One man who will closely watch developments is World Cup coach Rale Rasic, who claims he was given firm

assurances about his own bonus payment for the Cup.

Rasic was subsequently asked to sign a document that he had no further claims on the ASF financially. He firmly refused to sign. And when his players do eventually get their bonuses, Rasic will be very upset if he doesn't also get paid. He will request, quite rightly, considerably more than any player.

As if this situation is not sufficiently complicated, one other factor must be taken into account.

The Australian dollar was devalued AFTER the World Cup but BEFORE the ASF has received payment. So if we were due to receive a certain amount of Deutsch Marks, we will still get that figure . . . but it will now be worth quite a lot less when converted to dollars. This is one of the hazards of topsy turvy international monetary fluctuations.

Meanwhile, although still not paid for competing in the 1974, World Cup, the ASF is tipped to announce soon a new

consortium to finance preparation for the 1978 tournament.

ASF president Sir Arthur George has been doing plenty of work behind the scenes to interest big business in Australian International Soccer. It is a pity he has had to work in a climate of business contraction which has seen several important companies literally struggling for survival.

Even so, Sir Arthur is expected to have good news for Soccer before the end of the year.

## STILL AT THEIR BEST

TWO of the oldest players in Sydney Soccer — and still two of the best — are John Watkiss, Hakoah Eastern Suburbs defender, and Ron Corry, South Sydney Croatia goalkeeper.

Every year, the pair are rumoured to be ready to hang up their boots. But they bounce back regularly and get better with age!

In recent weeks, both Watkiss and Corry have stated they are looking forward eagerly to the 1975 Soccer season.

Players are always shy about their ages, but to describe this pair as being in their middle 30s would be accurate.

What's more, both played a big part in guiding Australia to the 1974 World Cup finals in West Germany.

In 1969, Watkiss and Corry were probably the oldest men in Australia's squad for World Cup qualifying games in South Korea . . . their last World Cup games according to the experts. But those experts were proved wrong.

When Rale Rasic needed a goalkeeper for Cup matches against New Zealand, Iraq and Indonesia last year, he called up Corry. Later, when he wanted a deputy for Manfred Schaefer, Watkiss stepped in.

Wonder how this ageless pair will go in Argentina!



ABOVE: RON CURRY IN ACTION

## NEW SQUAD FOR 1978 WORLD CUP

By JOHN O'BRIEN

AUSTRALIA will have a brand new squad for the 1978 World Cup. Star international players, who have carried Australia's hopes against many different countries since 1967, are certain to be replaced in the build-up for Argentine 1978.

For many players, age will determine their departure from the big-time. For instance, Johnny Warren, John Watkiss, Jimmy Mackay and Manfred Schaefer are just a few of the top players now in the 30-plus age bracket.

It would be expecting a lot for such veterans to be able to cope with the pressures of World Cup contests in four years time. In any case, Schaefer has already announced his retirement while Warren is hoping to restrict his own appearances in the 1975 season.

But is it necessary to have a complete wipe-out of the squad which played in West Germany this year? Several Australian stars have been written off at a time when they can still look forward to another four or five years in the top class.

Take the case of Atti Abonyi. This St George Budapest striker, who has a ton of natural ability, stated recently he was not interested in representing Australia again. Abonyi is only 27 — and a very fit 27.

Jimmy Rooney is another of the World Cup heroes who still has plenty of top level Soccer left in him. The little Scot, a midfield workhorse who has achieved much for Australia, is about the same age as Abonyi. Rooney, though, is not expected to be World Cup

material in 1978.

Rale Rasic, who made such a great job of coaching our Cup squad in West Germany this year, is convinced most of that squad can be written off in future team building.

During a training session in Hamburg in June, Rasic made the blunt prediction that only four of Australia's 22 World Cup players would survive for the next tilt at the Cup. Rasic actually named the four . . . goalkeeper Alan Maher, full-backs Harry Williams and Col Curran and centre-half Peter Wilson.

He did add, however, that Adrian Alston (now with Luton Town in England) might also have a chance in 1978.

Rasic's comments would not have gone down well with several of the younger members of the squad. For instance — Jim Milisavljevic, Gary Manuel, Ernie Campbell, Branko Buljevic, Dave Harding, Peter Ollerton and Doug Utjesenovic.

Average age of the seven is less than 25 years, so all should be in their prime four years

hence.

Was Rale Rasic more concerned with their Soccer ability than their birth certificates?

For too long, boys like Gary Manuel and Ernie Campbell have been regarded as potential "greats" yet have repeatedly failed to live up to their promise in the really important games. I would place Branko Buljevic in the same category.

Dave Harding is a good club player but probably lacks the spark of genius to make the grade at international level.

Milisavljevic, Ollerton and Utjesenovic, on the other hand, are three players who could do big things for Australia in qualifying matches for the next World Cup.

Milisavljevic has never been truly tested in international competition and must be given his opportunity. Ollerton, top goalscorer in Sydney this year, probably needs more dedication to fitness. A big man, Ollerton must have hard training. He could do a mighty job in the future because he is still only 23.

Utjesenovic is a most difficult player to assess. He has pure skills not normally seen in a defender but unless he injects more bite and devil into his defensive play, the popular Doug may miss the boat. As a creator, he cannot be faulted: as a destroyer, he has occasionally been caught out by fast, tricky, opponents.

If Rale Rasic is to be proved right and nearly all of this year's World Cup players drop-out, where will replacements be found?

Sydney is certainly not the great reservoir of young talent it used to be. There are many good players in the 18 to 22 age bracket but I would hesitate to nominate any to carry Australia's World Cup hopes to Argentina. Names that spring to mind include Barnes, Mullen and Lynch (Hakoah Eastern Suburbs), Bell (Pan Hellenic), Grosse (St George Budapest), Degney, Byrne, Colusso, Mariani (Marconi Fairfield), Russell, Butler (Apia Leichhardt), Leak, Deller (Auburn), Jack, Lachowicz, Perry (Western Suburbs).

I am sure several of these youngsters will eventually mature to international rating but, so far, they have not done enough — for my money — to be classed as great stars of the future.

Perhaps it is just as well Sydney's talent is drying up. This will compel international selectors to search more seriously in Melbourne, Perth and other cities for the players Australia is going to need for Argentina. New South Wales has had too many players in the national team in the past — a state of affairs which caused Soccer folk in other States to complain bitterly.

But, to be fair to Rale Rasic, he has not always

received 100 per cent assistance from officials in other States.

How many of Rasic's critics know of his experience in South Australia during the build-up for the 1974 World Cup?

Rasic asked one of S.A.'s leading administrators to nominate outstanding players for inclusion in national squad trials and training. The S.A. official told Rasic: "I must be honest and say we have only one player I could firmly recommend to play for Australia."

At that time, South Australia was claiming to be this country's second strongest Soccer State.

Is it any wonder that Rasic, as sole selector, turned to the players he knew so well — the boys he was watching, and assessing, every weekend in the NSW Federation? At least he possessed thorough knowledge of their skills (and shortcomings) and he preferred to put his money on them rather than on players in Adelaide who were not even recommended by a S.A. expert.

Whoever handles our next World Cup bid — and despite all the evidence, I believe it will be Rale Rasic — will have to recruit many of the squad from other States rather than NSW.

The supply of Sydney talent will have to improve a lot if the "new" Australian squad is to be monopolised by NSW.

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Continued from P.3

tgart 5; Rot-Weiss Essen 1, Fortuna Duesseldorf 2; Bor Moenchengladbach 1, 1. FC Cologne 1; Werder Bremen 2, Wuppertaler SV 1; VFL Bochum 4, Hamburger SV 2; Tennis Borussia, Berlin 0, Hertha BSC Berlin 3; MSV Duisburg 2, Bayern Munich 1; 1. FC

Kaiserslautern 1, Offenbach Kickers 2.  
**IRISH LEAGUE CITY CUP FOOTBALL RESULTS**  
Ards 1, Bangor 2; Cliftonville 3, Larne 0; Coleraine 1, Ballymena United 1; Distillery 1, Glentoran 2; Linfield 1, Crusaders 1; Portadown 2, Glenavon 2.

coach, and the club's treasurer.  
xxx  
OUR national director of coaching Eric Worthington has set up a program for better youth coaching in all states with more attention to be paid to the under-18 juniors. Coaching camps will be arranged at Easter holidays and also twice a week regular training sessions will be set up by local soccer authorities. Next year, apart from

National championships of under-15 and 16, a carnival for under-18s will be arranged.  
xxx  
STATE LEAGUE clubs are up for \$40,000 expenses to run a first, reserve and three to four junior teams in a season. No wonder that most of the clubs are finishing the season in the red. Some sources of income have to be found by the clubs, otherwise most of them will face disaster in the

season 1975.  
xxx  
JOHN GARDINER, winner of Rothmans medal in 1971 and 1972 was declared Soccer World's (Sydney) Player of the Year for the 1974 season. Congratulations! John, one of the most outstanding players in Victoria, was during the past season shadowed by his team mate Paul Murphy, second best goalscorer in the State League.

little business and a lot of discussion about their job. They should meet together on social outings, have golf days and other sporting activities, also family days etc.  
(C) Lastly they should be benevolent. They should look after their members when falling on hard times involving health, accident or other misfortunes.

The V.S.F. Referees Committee. It is normal for referees who are guilty of misdemeanour, i.e. conduct unbecoming a referee, failing to turn up for appointments etc. to be denied appointments by the referee's appointments board.  
If a referee is unfit he also should not be appointed until he does something about it, but, I repeat, other referees should have NO jurisdiction over him.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Under no circumstances should active referees just as the separate State League has outlived its usefulness, so has the old dictatorship within the referees association outlived its usefulness.

Trouble is that there are still power crazy members, both to relinquish dictatorial powers.

It is right and proper that referees should provide the V.S.F. with a medical certificate of their physical fitness to referee. I believe that a case could be made for referees to provide proof of mental fitness to referee.

When it comes to an executive directing referees to compulsory training AND IMPOSING FINES IF THE REFEREES DON'T RESPOND, surely this is ludicrous. It is stupid, irrational and takes no account of the referee's actual physical fitness.

#### FIT OR UNFIT

A referee of minimum fitness attends the training directed by the executive and can go on and referee.

Another referee of top physical fitness, who regularly keeps himself in good shape does not attend the training directed by the executive and these dictatorial gentlemen impose an arbitrary fine of \$2 per session.

This I understand has actually happened. Frankly any referee who succumbs to this form of blackmail, isn't worthy of his high office.

It is about time the dictatorial element in the referee's association was winkled out and these gentlemen attend to those matters which are of vital importance to referees.

#### DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The referees have, also, a disciplinary committee which can, and DOES suspend or otherwise discipline referees.

Believe it or not, this committee has active referees on it.

Surely any form of discipline should rest with

#### NATIONAL FEDERATION

Some years since, Mr Pedler and others from inter-state, got the National Referees Federation off the ground.

It was a good thing in concept. It showed that referees were really trying to unite and act uniformly, on a national basis. It did a number of useful things, including sorting out South Australia's problems between referees and the ruling Soccer body. It did, however, fall down badly when Victoria's FIFA referee Lou Stafrace was appointed to an international game in Sydney, but was denied the appointment by the N.S.W. people, after he arrived in Sydney.

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Next Monday, the Victorian Referees hold their A.G.M.

New officers could be elected in various departments.

Perhaps we shall see them getting down to the real functions of a referees association and eliminating those delusions of grandeur and power.

Referees are basically honest, hard working sportsmen who try to do an important job with dignity, fairness and complete impartiality.

They are abused by spectators, some club officials and some players.

The people who abuse them are almost always ignorant of the laws of the game yet at the same time imagine they know more of the law than the official in charge. It is an occupational hazard which most referees take in their stride. We hope they will continue to carry out their duties with dignity and wisdom.

For their own future and solidarity and unity it is to be hoped that the new administration will stop flexing muscle and trying to dictate to fellow referees.

Rather let them work together on unity of purpose and interpretation.

GEORGE YELLAND GEORGE YELLAND

## REPORTS

GEORGE YELLAND GEORGE YELLAND

**PERMISSION** has been granted for the Metropolitan League to institute its own summer competition.

It will be a twilight competition, played Wednesday or Thursday right over six or seven weeks, starting late in January.

The trophy they will play for will be known as the Cumberland Trophy.

It is intended that games will be played in four regions with a minimum of eight teams in each region.

The regions are expected to be West, East, Central and South and the games, starting at 6.30 or 7 p.m. will be played on the same basis as the World Cup, that is, on a League basis.

The top team in each section will receive a trophy and then they will play off semi-finals and final, for the Cumberland Trophy.

Plans are in the formative state at the moment, but the competition is definitely on. Wouldn't it be a great idea for the final to be curtain raiser to the Ampol Cup Final, at Olympic Park?

#### CUP GAMES,

The Metropolitan Management Committee is very busy preparing for 1975.

Proposals which have already been made, and, hopefully, will be implemented, concern the Dockerty Cup, the Federation Cup and Sunday games.

It is proposed that three rounds of the Dockerty Cup should be played in March.

It is further suggested that the preliminary round of the Federation Cup should be played on April 5th, the first Saturday in April.

One weekend in May should be free of League games and a further

reasons, the ruling hierarchy within the Referee's Association took on duties, responsibilities and authority, not normally the prerogative of referees associations.

Active referees disciplined other active referees. The association became a closed shop. Either you became a member or you didn't referee.

#### CREDENTIALS

Referees from overseas presented credentials but a committee of the association decided whether they were accepted or not.

Officials from interstate were also reviewed by this committee, who decided whether their interstate grading should be accepted.

Basically this was wrong.

In principle, no active referee should be in a position to influence or affect the career of another referee.

Unfortunately the Soccer Federation had so many problems they didn't want to bother with administering referees, and were content to let them handle their own affairs.

#### REFEREES COMMITTEE

The V.S.F. should of course, have formed a Referee's Committee and administered the whistle from Soccer House, but that had to wait until the '70s.

It is well known that the function of a referee's association is three-fold:

(A) It should be "Instructional". Referees should spend a large part of their time and effort in discussing the fine points of law and endeavouring to achieve, as near as possible, unanimity of interpretation.

The instruction of new candidates is also a function of the referees association but their examination should be the responsibility of the ruling body's referee's committee, not the referee's association.

#### SOCIAL AND BENEVOLENT

(B) The second function is social. By the very nature of their office, referees are men apart.

They should NOT fraternise with clubs or players for obvious reasons. Therefore, all the more reason why they should socialise amongst themselves. They should meet together regularly through the season, for a

**AFTER** the completion of a most successful season, with South Melbourne Hellas and Footscray-JUST taking the State League honours, and Sunshine City winning the Division One Championship, moves are already on the way to make the 1975 season even better.

The Albert Park Trustees, inspired by the success of the State League Cup which brought an all-time financial record, are planning the installation of floodlights and also special colour television equipment worth close enough to \$120,000. Channel 0 is organising a tournament with prizes worth thousands of dollars, and next year the Ampol Cup night tournament will carry higher prizes for the winner and runner-up.

So after only a short spell, we will be off to another great season.

Meantime, the Victorian squad is training regularly once a week on Wednesdays at Middle Park. Tony Boggi and his assistant Bill Curran want to make sure that Victoria will be well prepared for the Polish tourists.

The news from Poland is that the Polish Soccer Federation issued a permit to several top class players to strengthen the touring Polish team. Soccer fans will be able to see Kaz Deyna recognised by soccer experts as the best centre forward in the World Cup series, also Wacław Gadocha, one of the top goalscorers at the Munich finals, and Roman Mowlik, deputy Polish national goalkeeper to Ian Tomaszewski.

xxx  
**ARE YOU** interested in obtaining a Soccer coaching certificate? You should contact the Victorian Soccer Federation, phones 94-4304 or 94-4112. The VSF together with the National Fitness Council is organising two coaching courses, a preliminary and a senior course starting next February.

xxx  
**THREE INSTEAD** of two games a week will be played in the Ampol night tournament which starts a week after the international game against the Poles. One game will be played on Thursday night and a double header on Saturday.

xxx  
**ANNUAL** general meetings are well on the way for most of the State League clubs.

Last Sunday Polonia and Hakoah St. Kilda elected new committees and worked out plans for the future. A good attendance at Polonia's meeting held at the Polish House cheered the secretary of the club Mr. Tomasz Ostrowski when he informed members that during a recent visit to Poland he obtained the services of a top centre forward Eugeniusz Lerch

from Row Rybnik.

The annual meeting authorised the new committee to go ahead in bringing Lerch to Melbourne and a certain amount of money has been raised to cover expenses.

The new president of the Polish club is Mr. Basył Sowiak, vice-president Richard Sawicki, secretary Tomasz Ostrowski, assistant Waldemar Kubicki, treasurer George Kerry (also delegate to VSF), property steward K. Zulinski, assistant Bolesław Mlewski. Committee members: Szczepanski, Nalepka, Białowiejski, Witt, Sarachman, Patron, Leskiewicz, Golarz and Myszk. Mrs. Victoria Leskiewicz was elected president of the Ladies' Auxiliary Club and Mr. Stefan Czauderna, an ex-Polonia goalkeeper was elected life member of the club.

xxx  
**LES ERDI** was re-elected president of the Hakoah St. Kilda Soccer Club at the AGM held on Sunday morning at the club rooms, Middle Park. The very successful president reduced the club's bank overdraft from \$38,000 to \$10,000.

Peter Weiniger, a well-known journalist and an ex-Hakoah junior player, and Harry Zelmanowicz, a textile executive and also an ex-junior player were elected to the new committee.

xxx  
**JOE PALINKAS**, the under-23 Melbourne star wants to play with St. George, in Sydney. A transfer fee believed to be very high is demanded by the Melbourne club and although an agreement hasn't been reached yet, Joe has already moved to Sydney.

xxx  
**JOHN CHASKIEL** was re-elected chairman of Hakoah Soccer Club. The general meeting adopted a resolution that the soccer section be enlarged to 5 members: chairman, vice-chairman, State League team manager, State League

Through those early, stormy years, when the Federation was striving to establish itself as a viable proposition, the problems which confronted them often resulted in long and violent discussions, with each club striving to gain individual advantage, regardless of the ultimate effect on the game in general. Many of the

decisions were short-sighted and frequently good ideas went for nothing, as clubs fought and jockeyed for positions of advantage.

During all this time, the referees managed to present a united front and because of the strength of their executive, became the most stable and disciplined body in Victorian Soccer.

For a number of



Joe Wilson, George Cross coach, presenting the winner's medal to Philip Vuk, captain of Oak Park High School Under-14's.



# SOCCER GOSSIP

By JOHN MARTIN

**FIVE STATE LEAGUE games on Sunday next season will mean very little chance for Metropolitan League first division clubs to show off their skills to their local fans.**

It seems to us that first division Sunday soccer is slowly being pushed out by this latest move. If the State League are serious in their efforts to promote the game next season perhaps they'll consider playing on more than three grounds.

Everyone knows that the top league is no more than a Melbourne league played at Olympic Park, Middle Park and Footscray Road grounds.

That in our books doesn't constitute a State League — and never will! OK, if the top brass want to make money then Sunday is the only day to play soccer, but for God sake, let someone in power like State League chairman, Sam Papasavas, an intelligent man, think of promotion of the game.

Bring in clubs from Dandenong, Frankston, Geelong, Moe, Ballarat and Bendigo, to name a few. Only then will Victorian soccer be proud to call its major league the STATE LEAGUE!

The proposed one State League game on Saturday next season has been designed for Channel 9. There will be no Sunday publicity for this game.

Sunday newspapers WILL NOT publish second-hand stuff. It will have been seen by all soccer and non-soccer fans and we are sure they WILL NOT want to read about it on Sunday.

The State League management committee have made many decisions in their time but this latest one seems ridiculous. Why can't they stick to this season's system of three games on Saturday, and three on Sunday? If five games are played on Sunday next year where will they be played?

When this question is answered perhaps we will be able to see some logic in the latest move by our premier soccer league in Victoria.

xxx

A GOOD MOVE by the State League was to introduce mid-week games during next year's Ampol Cup competition which kicks off on February 1, at Olympic Park.

Until this decision was made there was much speculation that Ampol Cup soccer would not be played next year.

It is good to know that Ampol — the Australian company — has at long last realised the value of the national game of soccer. They have actually decided to increase the prizemoney to \$5,000. A great thing.

For years this company has been getting fantastic value for their sponsorship. They now realise soccer has arrived — it has come of age. And

those who have pioneered with the sport are beginning to benefit. Ampol is one of those selected few.

Next February when the ten State League teams kick off the Ampol Cup, they will be showing the Ampol flag.

This company for years has dipped deep into its pockets to provide the prize money for the new Australian code that was unknown, but now it is the international football game which gave Australia its impetus during the World Cup in Germany this year.

The \$5,000 that they are offering for prize money seems a fair reward for a sponsorship that is paying big dividends.

xxx

THE VICTORIAN Soccer Federation this week invited applications for the position of a Victorian coach and manager for the State team and the State under 16 side for 1975.

One would think that Tony Boggi and the evergreen Bill Curran, who have been so successful with the State and Under 16 teams in the past, would automatically be appointed.

We can't understand why the V.S.F. has to go through all these silly motions and appoint the same men every time.

xxx

THERE is no doubt the Metropolitan Industrial Soccer League — now known as the Industrial Soccer League of Victoria — is the best managed and best administered league in the round-ball game in Victoria.

Much of this has to do with its very capable secretary, Mr. Fred Habbe.

Into our office this week came the third annual report of the league.

A beautifully-bound 30-page document showing balance sheet (which, incidentally, is making a profit) and progress for the past year.

It was interesting to read of the growth of the League in the three divisions with 10 member clubs in each.

President John Borg speaks highly of the league and his colleagues on the committee who in three years have created something that was much needed for the round-ball sport.

It is unique. The other code — Aussie rules — has nothing like it. Those at Soccer House

should feel proud that soccer is well established in all the major industrial companies — in the State — thanks to the Industrial Soccer League in Victoria.

It was pleasing to read that the League appreciated the value of publicity.

Four paragraphs in their annual report were devoted to acknowledging the various media throughout the year for their splendid efforts in promoting the Industrial league.

We are pleased to state that Soccer Week was prominent on the list.

xxx

WE WERE told this week that the Australian Soccer Pools will introduce a \$100,000 jackpot to encourage more Victorians to take part in the pools.

After some of the lousy payouts during the past three weeks, we can't help feeling it's about time a move like this was made and we have to congratulate the Australian Soccer Pools managing director, John Kennerley, in making the announcement.

Today (Thursday) we hope a Victorian will be the first to win this prize.

It will only need one winner to make the pools the success that everyone was hoping they would be.

xxx

THERE is no doubt that some of the ignorant Victorian soccer bosses are ruining the game in this State.

Have you ever stopped to think what kind of men occupy most of the seats of power in Victorian soccer?

Glory hunters, business opportunists, perks, grabbers, rank amateurs, and so forth . . .

That is the shattering answer according to a survey completed by this newspaper last week.

One supporter we spoke to said, "too many State League officials don't know what they are talking about. They hardly know the first thing about the game."

The man we spoke to suggested all State League officials should sit a soccer examination to sought out the duffers.

"I have suggested this to the VSF more than once but as usual nothing has been done about it. Mr. Wallace seems to turn a blind eye to any intelligent suggestion. It's possible he doesn't bother to pass it on to his

superiors. I'm convinced that such a scheme would be beneficial to the sport.

"I'm convinced that if we held such an examination you wouldn't get more than ten correct answers from all the State League officials combined.

"That's just one item. But there is so much they just don't know and so much they should be made to learn.

"There are great problems facing this game and before we can contact them successfully we must do our best to ensure that the men who control the clubs — the officials — are the right men.

"There are too many in it just for the glory or for the business contacts they can make.

"Victorian soccer wants men with ideas, men who know what the game is all about."

Our informant suggested regular teachings and exams for club officials.

What form would they take?

"I'm not going to tell you everything I have in mind, but one obvious feature would be lectures by people who have been in the game a long time and who know what they are talking about.

"Men like the V.S.F. chairman, Michael Weinstein, for instance, or Mike De Bruyckere, the Polonia coach, who has had a ton of experience in Victorian soccer."

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xxx  
HAKOAH ST. KILDA Soccer Club have reappointed John Chaskiel as chairman for next season. Let's hope that Mr. Chaskiel and his colleagues get down to the serious business of making Hakoah the great side it was in the past.

The first job he has to tackle is to find a new coach — one who has authority, discipline, and the ability to produce 11 men who will for 22 games give 90 minutes of stimulating and entertaining soccer on the field.

The haphazard, dull, uninteresting type of play produced last year will not attract a dog, let alone a supporter to Middle Park!

It's all very well for millionaire Mr. Les Erdi to reduce the club deficit from \$40,000 to \$10,000 with his business know-how, but what's the point if his coach and team are not giving a 100 per cent effort on the field?

Another season like last year will only see a continuous dwindle of Hakoah's meagre support, and a possible relegation to Metropolitan League.

xxx

THIS WEEK Victorian coach Tony Boggi will chop his 30-man state squad by half.

There will be some disappointed and sad faces but we hope that those who remain to represent the State against Poland's champion team LKS, will carry the Victorian flag to victory at Olympic Park next January.

All that is needed to make Victoria great is a 100 per cent effort, true sportsmanship and the willingness to put the right foot forward during the preparations between now and the New Year.

Good luck, chaps!

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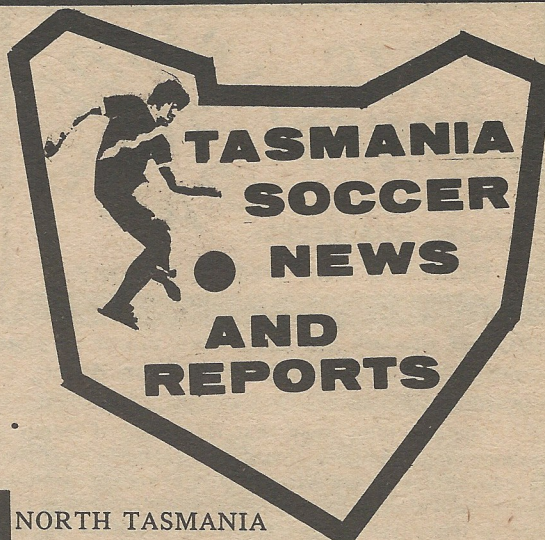
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THE BURNIE SPARTANS SOCCER team, which won the final of the Night Series conducted by the Devonport Soccer Club on Thursday, October 31. (From left-front): I. Atkins, M. Denton, W. Kendrick (c), M. Newall, M. Rodger, H. Edwards. (back): W. Parry, D. Currie, R. Chamberlain, P. McCorkell, G. West, I. Newall, G. Groenveld, P. Turner.



## NORTH TASMANIA

THE main talking point amongst Soccer followers, players and officials is the disgraceful behaviour of Sunshine City on their recent visit to Tasmania. As a former Victorian and having been associated with the growth of soccer in that State for the last 7 years I was hoping that some of the "knowhow" would pass on to some of the local clubs in North Tasmania. Now who will listen when we have such an example before us.

The only way lost faith can be restored is for the Victorian Soccer Federation to take the strongest possible action against Sunshine City, and not forget that they banned the Croatia Club for bringing the game into disrepute.

As the 1974 season is now finished it would seem appropriate to write about the Soccer set-up in our neck of the woods.

There are two associations within this area, the North which embraces clubs in the Launceston area, and the North West with clubs from the West Coast through to Devonport. These two associations have joined together to form a combined league of 12 clubs.

The furthest club out is Rosebery, a zinc, lead, and silver mining town in the mountains above the West Coast. The nearest clubs to them are Burnie Rovers and Burnie Spartans who share a ground in the industrial and port town of Burnie. The distance from Rosebery to Burnie is 95 miles and although there is a good road because of the bends, rises and falls the trip takes about 3½ hours each way.

Further along the coast is Ulverstone a residential and holiday town and 18 miles from Burnie. Devonport is the next town and it is here that the "Empress of Australia" from Melbourne docks.

The Devonport club has a floodlit ground and it is here that the Advocate-Norco night series, won by Burnie Spartans was run. Recent visitors to this ground were Victoria's Doncaster Rovers and there was nothing but praise for their behaviour, playing ability and general attitude throughout the weekend. Devonport is 126 miles from Rosebery, a 4½ hour run each way.

From Devonport we proceed to Launceston a distance of 58 miles. In and around this City are no less than seven clubs.

George Town is the most northerly and is adjacent to Bell Bay. It is the home town of the combined League secretary Mr. G. Dale. Taking again the distance from Rosebery it is 191 miles or 6 hours.

In the Launceston area is another of the famous Juventus clubs, and is based on the Australian-Italian club. Another familiar name is Launceston Croatia and they played at Rosevears some 12 miles from the city centre. Launceston United are a powerful club and included in their records are the holding of the Senior Combined League Cup for 5 years from 1968 to 1972. Matric are a club based around the Launceston Matriculation College and as is to be expected they are a young side who have yet to show their potential.

Ravenswood Olympic who won the Combined League Cup in 1973, and St. Leonards, a comparatively new club, complete the clubs in this area and in the Combined League.

Returning to Rosebery, throughout the season for League commitments only they have to travel a total of 3200 miles and to be added to this are the Cup games and they also took part in the night series at Devonport. For a purely amateur club this requires a lot of dedication. The V.S.F. and Sunshine City should take note.

## ULVERSTONE SOCCER CLUB AGM

At the Annual General Meeting on Monday 11th November Ken Howe, who is the President of the North-West Association, was re-elected President, Bill Drew was re-elected Treasurer and in presenting his report he indicated that gate receipts had increased by 33 per cent as a result of a successful season.

Mrs. Dorothy Roberts was elected Secretary. Peter Goss was confirmed.

Mike Denton is having his first season with the club after moving from Sydney and having played with St. George Budapest and represented Australia. He has established himself already as the league's top striker.



# CATS CORNER (INSIDE THE GAME)

MIKE O'HARA,  
SLAVIAS GOALKEEPER

DELIVERS THIS WEEKLY REPORT.



**SOCCER players are their own worst enemies when it comes to maintaining a reasonable condition during the close season (the summer months).**

There is little doubt that 75 percent of league players do not implement training programmes or impose upon themselves a reasonable conditioning routine in order to save the pre-season torture of vigorous stamina and endurance exercises. The obvious alternative is to join an athletics club and thereby maintain and indeed add to the physical programme followed during the regular playing season. Athletics not only develops stamina but also assists with running technique and general co-ordination.

Several students at St. James College (my school) are actively engaged at the Moorabbin Athletics Club where Secretary-coach Colin Henzell is earnestly working on them and other local athletes in order to achieve some success both for the individuals concerned and the club. The Moorabbin Club has been operative for a total of 11 years and has been the means for many youngsters to develop and keep themselves interested in physical exercise which is all for the good. In Association with the men's club is the Moorabbin women's club which boasts the third largest women's team in Victoria. Forty-six girls train regularly through the week and compete on Saturdays.

As in all successful enterprises there are individuals who work higher than the call of normal duty. Mr. John Meredith coach and Mrs. Faye Meredith are the "helmsmen" at the Moorabbin Ladies' Club. The environment is a very acceptable one in that enthusiasts are not forced to comply but are asked in a manner so as to generate club spirit and maturity. The social get togethers are quite constructive and Fetes, Social evenings, barbecues and "Inter Calendar. Certainly the spirit at the Moorabbin Club" soccer-football matches are usual features of the club's social calendar. Certainly the spirit at the Moorabbin track is very warm and acceptable for any young boy or girl who wishes to participate in good healthy fun and of course compete in either track or field events at weekends. The women's club has increased in volume at an incredible rate bearing in mind its inception was in 1973! Congratulations again to John and Faye Meredith for their wonderful work with the kids!

League Cup. It has not been for stout defensive work on the part of new "discovery" Jimmy Milisalevic and his co-defenders, "Alexander" would have been inscribed on the League Cup. The gods were not with them however, and it is now part of history. Tony Boggi (the man in the raincoat) can take great heart from the fact that his charges gave all they had for him and apart from J.U.S.T.'s second

goal followed his formula to the letter.

Alexander are the best team in the league for Spectator value and if they can obtain the services of a top keeper and pivot then 1975 will see them overcome all who stand in their way. There are many rumours flying around that Pan Hellenic and another prominent Sydney club are bidding fiercely for Big name player Jack

goal. Chris Economides despite his "whiplashing" by columnists and "the rest" will probably remain Kennedy's understudy with the bright young third choice moving on to pastures new.

Alexander may even let Economides leave and keep the youngster, either way its a toss up. The season is over and everyone is looking forward to the Ampol Cup

Fred Habbe regarding visits of top clubs-Victorian representative sides is both constructive and pretty obviously desirable. All comments however constructive and thoughtful seem to "die a quick death" as far as the Victorian Soccer Federation is concerned! We do of course realise that the work force of the V.S.F. numbers three full-time persons. The man at the bridge Mr. Wallace, is a tremendous man, but is totally overworked and thereby nullified in co-ordinating the many seemingly trivial but nevertheless important duties involved apart from the administrative side.

A full-time P.R. man is required and the sooner this is done the faster the game in Victoria will get off its "back legs"! Companies are leaning over backwards to sponsor groups but what has the V.S.F. done to get in for "their chop"? Come on now, lets be honest!

xxx

CONTRARY to what a Journalist or Je ne Sais qui said of me last week, of course its not true that



Swindon Town 1965: (Photograph) Back row, from left: Norman Trollope (current Swindon Town) Don Rogers (current Q.P.R.) Mike O'Hara, Terry Wollen, Owen Dawson, Mike Summerbee (current Manchester City). Front row, from left: Ernie Hunt (current Bristol City) Roger Smart (current Swindon Town) Billy Harbour, Wilf Shergold, Frank Smith.

Reilly, the fact that "Gentleman Jack" has not kicked a ball for five months does not seem to have deterred them in any way, shape or form. Reilly is without any shadow of doubt, a "classy" keeper and probably has a period of years left in the game but buying him would be "a punt" and my words will ring true next season at this time!

Another keeper who is "homesick" and cannot wait to taste the carbon monoxide Melbourne air is Apia failure John Kennedy. Kennedy went to Sydney as a recognised Melbourne Star but found the game in the "Big City" more than he bargained for. Whether John Kennedy got an "Australian fair go" is a hypothetical question at this point in time but in my opinion he definitely did not!

I have details to back up this comment although of course the plain fact is that Kennedy will come "home" anyway, therefore the story is irrelevant. Alexander must take Kennedy if they are the professional unit. At \$1000 he is a good buy and although lacking much agility is absolutely safe and fearless in the

of 1975. Hellas the Glory team of 1974 need a 'keeper. Who will they buy?

The answer to that intriguing question is still a mystery and "poor old" ex Austria 'Keeper Hans Peterson (signed for Hellas Midway during 1974) wishes they would make up their mind. Hellas could of course play Peterson as his performances in the "sticks" are usually polished and steady, but knowing Hellas and their professional approach they will probably take another boy to make it competition between the two. No names have been forthcoming on the grapevine, so it looks like a chequebook affair.

xxx

THE article written by

## CAULFIELD CITY SOCCER CLUB

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# THE BALLY NO WITH LEN STONE

**A government sponsored body on leisure and recreation in Victoria recently called Aussie Rules Football a "social disease". But this is old hat.**

Many years ago, longer than I care to remember as a kid in Austria, a government seminar branded association football (soccer) a social disease because of the masses "addiction" caused by the famous round ball game.

And I remember a British women's group pointing a finger at English soccer, stating in no uncertain terms that it turns their men into football fanatics.

In Germany before the war, a government minister wanted to forbid soccer because he felt it was a social disease and definitely the wrong way to spend leisure time. He stated that these misguided people would stand for hours watching 22 men chasing a round ball but would not go outside their front door to see the beloved Fuhrer.

Although many of his Nazi colleagues thought it was a good idea, they felt it would be a most unpopular measure with the masses. After some deliberation, the ministers came to the conclusion it can't be done and in fact took a step into the other direction by appointing a Minister of Sports.

"Football is bad for a nation" once said a French social worker of high repute. When questioned further he gave gross neglect of the wives of France as a classic example.

He thought if a family was fortunate enough to possess a house with a garden, the male would let the weeds grow in the garden because the preparation to journey to the football ground and the postmortems afterwards took up all his spare time — an intolerable situation!

In Belgium, a marriage council group condemned soccer because the man of the house neglects his property. A threatening cloud would stop him from gardening or from carrying out outside

renovations, but a blizzard would not keep him away from a soccer match.

So you see, the recently discovered social disease in Aussie Rules States has been one diagnosed a long time ago with the world's No 1 sport soccer being the culprit.

Finally, at a court hearing in Naples, a witness said that his good doctor who has done so much for the poor and is such a gentleman in ordinary life, but get him on a football ground, particularly when his Napoli is involved in a match, he transforms into a raving lunatic!

xxx

The report of the Metropolitan Industrial Soccer League's annual meeting for 1974 made interesting reading.

In future there will be a new name because it is felt that the word 'Metropolitan' has outlived its purpose.

Calling it "The Industrial Soccer League of Victoria" will give it a tremendous boost and a stronger state identity. I was pleased to see that John Borg was re-elected as President, Eric Holbrook as Vice President and Fred Habbe who so expertly contributes to SOCCER WEEK as Secretary and Treasurer.

All three have done a tremendous job. Another stalwart, Peter Ermsrang was appointed chairman of the Disciplinary Board for the third successive year.

McColl won the First Division Championship for the second year running, Standard the Second and Catro the Third Division.

Ford Falcons had a

successful year winning the Adidas Cup and the Kingsford team of the year award.

Donald Young of the Dulux Soccer Club collected the Courage Best and Fairest and Tarax Player of the Year awards.

With the relaxation of apartheid rules in South African soccer, the SAFA president Mr Dave Marais feels that the time has come for FIFA to allow member countries to send teams to play in his country.

As a first up, South Africa would like to see a tour by Australia to the Republic but I understand that even if FIFA lift the ban, Australia would think twice about accepting such an invitation.

I doubt whether the Labour Government would think kindly upon the ASF if they did accept an offer to play in South Africa.

xxx

Although Albion Rovers had a reasonably satisfactory season, it was surprising that the star studded club did not figure prominently in the promotion race.

Only in the Federation Cup Final where they had a good win over Frankston did they show their true colours.

Jimmy Daparis the brother of Hellas star Johnny had a very good season and rumours have it that South Melbourne Hellas are keen to sign him.

Two former State League greats are also likely to be absent from the Rovers line-up next season.

Ex Slavia stalwart Charlie McCorquodale, many soccer fans will remember him starring for the Port Melbourne club during their great Australia Cup winners side in 1963, is hanging up his boots.

Many Rovers fans feel that he has at least another or two seasons left in him before thinking of such a move, but Charlie appears to have made up his mind that the time has come for him to retire.

Former Hakoah player Billy Rae, another Scot who has given Albion Rovers excellent service is about to return to Scotland and will be sadly missed by his club.

However with so much young talent in the area, Albion Rovers should concentrate on bringing in youngsters in place of their aging star players. I am sure their loyal and vocal supporters would be right behind such a move.

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